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Russia Believed Testing V-2s at Peenemuende

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**Former Wehrmacht Expert
Has Unverified Reports
Plants Are in Operation**

*By Wireless to the Herald Tribune
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FRANKFURT AM MAIN, July 31. — Recent press reports of rockets observed over Swedish territory and the Baltic Sea probably mean that the Russians are engaged in V-2 experimentation at Peenemuende, in northern Pomerania, according to a former Wehrmacht rocket expert who now lives in Frankfurt am Main.

This German engineer, who prefers to remain anonymous, was until the last days of the war engaged in rocket research at Peenemuende and other experimental stations.

He said he has received unconfirmed reports from the Russian zone of occupation that the former rocket production and assembly plants and laboratories at Nordhausen, Bleicherode, Sondershausen and Saalfeld are operating again, though no detailed information is available as to the nature and type of the work.

Nordhausen was an elaborate underground assembly plant, and the other three stations manufactured V-2 parts and carried on testing.

If rockets are being launched out over the Baltic, as recent reports from Stockholm would indicate, then undoubtedly the Russians have put the famous Wehrmacht rocket station at Peenemuende back into operation, this engineer states.

Peenemuende was bombed by the Royal Air Force during the closing months of the war, but was not damaged beyond repair. The rocket-launching sites were untouched when this engineer and the entire staff were evacuated from the Baltic experimental station in the last weeks of the war.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 workers and several hundred experts were taken from Peenemuende to Bleicherode and later to Oberammergau, in Bavaria, where they were taken over by American troops. According to this informant, most of these scientists were sent to England and to America in rocket teams to continue their research work.

100 of the rocket technicians are now in the United States, but the British group has been disbanded and brought back to Germany, according to this source.

If they are carrying on rocket experimentation in their zone, the Russians are suffering from several basic handicaps, the informant said. Except for skilled labor, the Russians are unable to gather in the key technicians. However, a top-ranking rocket engineer who is a friend of this informant is known to be working for the Russians.